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8                   UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
9                   WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
10                  AT TACOMA

11                  WILLIAM W. ROSS,

12                  v.  
13                  Plaintiff,

14                  WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT  
15                  OF CORRECTIONS, et al,

16                  Defendants.

17                  CASE NO. 3:16-cv-05469-RJB-TLF

18                  ORDER DENYING PLAINTIFF'S  
19                  MOTION TO ALLOW INMATE  
20                  ADVISOR

21                  THIS MATTER comes before the Court on Plaintiff's Motion to Allow Inmate Advisor.  
22                  The Court has considered Defendants' Response and the remainder of the file herein. Dkt. 67.

23                  Plaintiff seeks relief to allow a fellow inmate to accompany him as an advisor to the  
24                  November 7, 2017 hearing "as well as any subsequent proceedings." Dkt. 65 at 1. According to  
Plaintiff, Plaintiff has "limited knowledge of the law, lack of education, special needs, and  
probable TBI (traumatic brain injury)," whereas a fellow inmate "is better able to frame, review,  
understand and articulate" Plaintiff's positions. *Id.*

1 Defendants argue that the motion is moot, because the November 7, 2017 hearing has  
2 passed. Dkt. 67 at 1. To the extent the motion is not moot, Defendants continue, (1) no other  
3 hearings are currently set, and such settings are rare, and (2) the State of Washington prohibits  
4 the advice or representation sought by Plaintiff, because non-attorneys cannot represent or  
5 provide legal advice. Dkt. 67 at 2.

6 Defendants are correct. Plaintiff's motion is moot as to the November 7, 2017 hearing,  
7 and although trial will be set if this case proceeds past dispositive motions, at present there are no  
8 other hearings set. The only current setting is the December 22, 2017 noting date for  
9 consideration of the Report and Recommendation (Dkt. 45). The Court typically considers  
10 Reports and Recommendations without oral argument, and at present the Court does not  
11 anticipate any departure from its general practice in this case. Defendants are also correct that  
12 non-attorneys cannot represent Plaintiff in front of this Court, and Plaintiff has made no showing  
13 that the inmate is a licensed attorney. Even if oral argument were currently set, allowing another  
14 inmate to advise Plaintiff at such a hearing would not be permissible.

15 Plaintiff's Motion to Allow Inmate Advisor (Dkt. 67) is HEREBY DENIED.

16 IT IS SO ORDERED.

17 The Clerk is directed to send uncertified copies of this Order to all counsel of record and  
18 to any party appearing pro se at said party's last known address.

19 Dated this 29<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2017.

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22 ROBERT J. BRYAN  
United States District Judge  
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